



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily

*Saturday  
15 March 1980*

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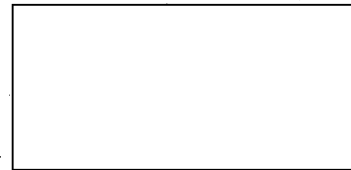
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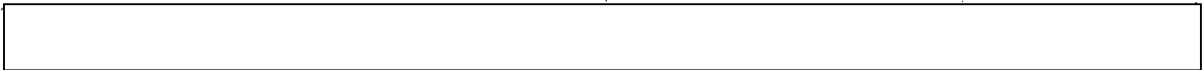
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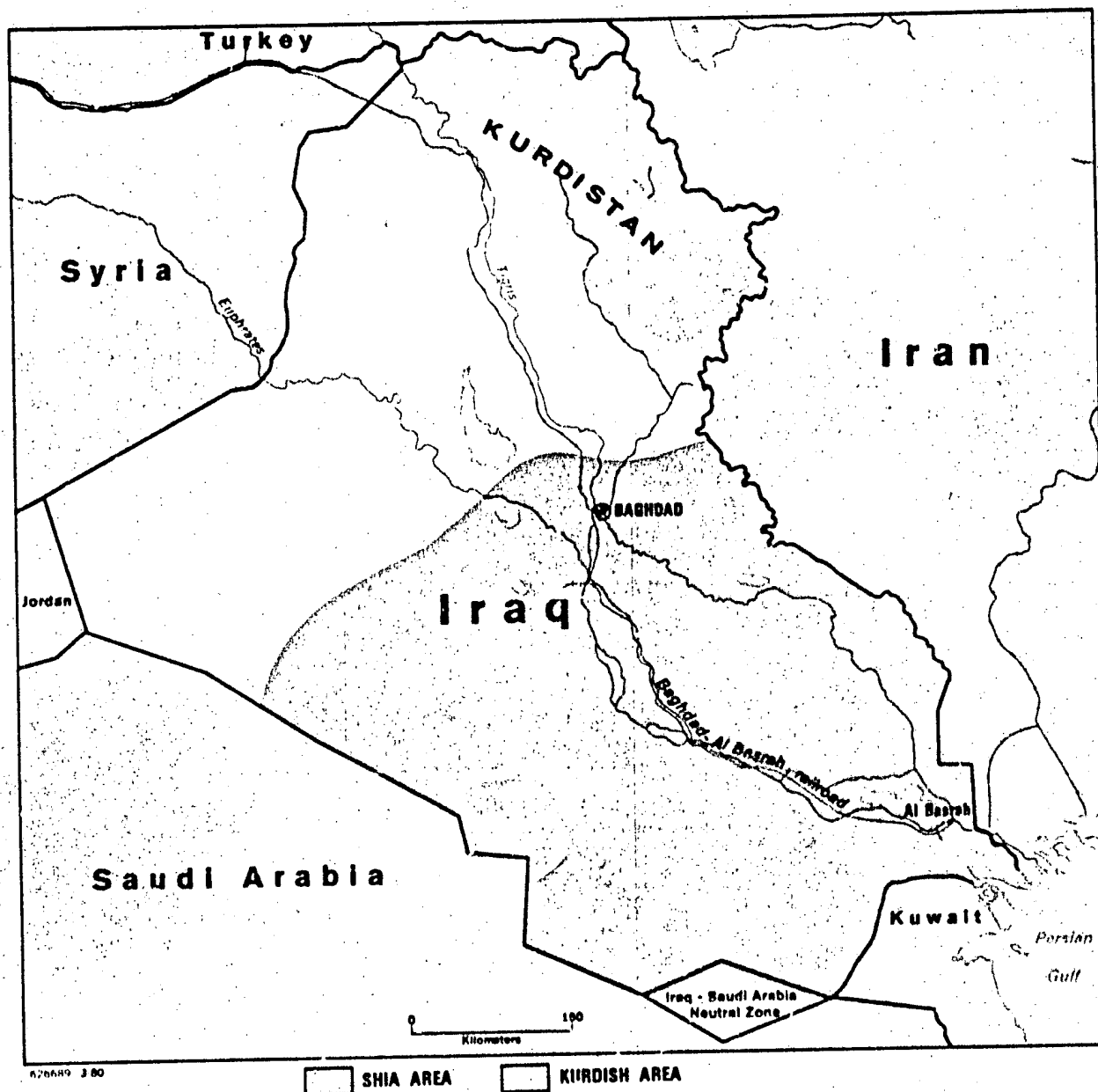


Briefs and Comments



Iraq: *Domestic Unrest* . . . . . 4





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IRAQ: Domestic Unrest

*Antigovernment activity in Iraq is increasing.*

Shia dissident attacks on police and government officials increased last month in Baghdad and in some southern provinces. In January and again in early March, Shia saboteurs disrupted traffic on the Baghdad - Al Basrah rail line.

Kurdish guerrilla activity has also picked up. The Kurds, who are more active when winter weather restricts Iraqi troop movement, probably are being encouraged by Iran and to a lesser extent Syria.

The small Iraqi Communist Party, which is trying to exploit the unrest, is willing to cooperate with any opposition group.

The 12-year-old Baathist regime is not in any immediate danger, however. President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi leaders are using both repression and welfare programs to combat disaffection among the large Shia and Kurdish communities. The Baathists have also tried to deemphasize their secularism and identify more with Islamic values.

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